

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 14-17 are amended. Support for amendments to claims 1, 9 and 14-17 can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0009], [0013], and [0085] - [0093]. Thus, no new matter is added.

**I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter**

**A. §102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-12 and 14-17**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-12 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 10208034 A to Kuwata et al. ("Kuwata"). The rejection of previously canceled claim 2 is moot and the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 9-12 and 14-17 is respectfully traversed.

Kuwata does not disclose a coefficient holding device that holds correction coefficients of a correction curve that correspond to the entire grayscale range or a portion of the grayscale range and include one or more correction points and a combination portion that is formed of a combination of a plurality of specific curve pattern portions, and that holds only the correction coefficients corresponding to one of the specific curve pattern portions in the combination portion and each of the specific curve pattern portions including a plurality of points that show a pattern of the specific curve pattern portion, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 9 and 14-17.

The Office Action alleges that the reference points yq1 and yq3 of Kuwata correspond to the claimed specific curve pattern portions (see the Office Action, page 2, item 1 and Kuwata, paragraph [0104]). This assertion is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the individual reference points yq1 and yq3 of Kuwata are merely single points of a curve shown in Fig. 25 of Kuwata. Further, the Office Action, on page 2, item 1, acknowledges that Kuwata describes using the reference points yq1 and yq3 for generating the curve shown in Fig. 25 of Kuwata. Moreover, the reference points

yq1 and yq3 do not include a plurality of points that show a pattern of the individual points yq1 and yq3, because the individual reference points yq1 and yq3, are themselves single points of the curve shown in Fig. 25, and thus, do not include a plurality of points that show a pattern of the reference points yq1 and yq3 (the alleged specific curve pattern portions). That is, the individual reference points yq1 and yq3 do not show a pattern. Thus, the individual reference points yq1 and yq3 cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to the claimed specific curve pattern portions that individually include a plurality of points that show a pattern of the specific curve pattern portion, as recited in independent claim 1 and as similarly recited in independent claims 9 and 14-17.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 9 and 14-17 are patentable over Kuwata. Further, claims 4-6 and 10-12, which depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively, also are patentable over Kuwata, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 9, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

**B.     §103(a) Rejection of Claim 3**

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kuwata, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,046,820 to Konishi ("Konishi"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Kuwata does not disclose every feature of independent claim 1. Further, Konishi does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Kuwata. Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1. Thus, claim 3 also is patentable over the combination of Kuwata and Konishi, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

**C.     §103(a) Rejection of Claim 7**

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kuwata, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,827,643 to Maeda et al. ("Maeda"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,908,701 to Udagawa ("Udagawa"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Kuwata does not disclose every feature of independent claim 1. Further, Maeda and Udagawa do not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Kuwata. Claim 7 depends from independent claim 1. Thus, claim 7 also is patentable over the combination of Kuwata, Maeda and Udagawa, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, as well as for additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

**D.     §103(a) Rejection of Claims 8 and 13**

Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kuwata, in view of Maeda and Udagawa, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,408,267 to Main ("Main"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Kuwata, Maeda and Udagawa does not teach or suggest every feature of independent claims 1 and 9. For the similar reasons, the combination of Kuwata, Maeda and Udagawa does not teach or suggest every feature of independent claim 9. Further, Main does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Kuwata with respect to independent claims 1 and 9. Claim 8 depends from independent claim 1, and claim 13 depends from independent claim 9. Thus, claims 8 and 13 also are patentable over the combination of Kuwata, Maeda and Udagawa, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 9, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully request.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PQW/mef

Attachment:  
Request for Continued Examination

Date: May 22, 2008

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